

Former Gaiety Girl Is Now Marchioness of Queensberry

Present Holder of the Ancient Title
Refused to Choose a Rich Bride
to Restore the Estate

By Arnold Prince

IT is within the scope of every boy's dream in America that he may one day be President of the United States, it may also be said that every chorus girl can look forward to the time when she may rise to the nobility and rule the household of a great family.

She that was Irene Richards, a Gaiety Theater girl, is now Marchioness of Queensberry, and as such not only entitled to move in the highest English society, but is the holder of one of the most famous titles in the British Empire. On her stationery she can have the "double tressure," and she can, if she choose, refer to Black Douglas as an ancestor of the family. Lord Sholto Douglas, her husband's uncle, also married an actress, although, the right of succession acting as a check, she never rose to the heights of a marchioness.

A Gaiety Girl's Romance

The former favorite of the Gaiety Theater won the title of marchioness through having wed Francis Archibald Kelhead, Viscount of Drumlanrig, in 1917. As the viscount was the eldest son of the ninth Marquess of Queensberry, he was naturally next in line for the title, his young and winsome bride becoming marchioness when her father-in-law died at Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 2 last.

The wedding of the onetime Gaiety girl to the young viscount was in itself a pretty romance, but not as interesting as the play of the cards that brought her from behind the footlights to the head of a family which, some have contended, once held the very fate of the British Empire in its hands.

For centuries, until the luck be-

gan to break badly, its men stood among the foremost in Scotland in ability and service, and the new marquess is a collateral descendant of that Black Douglas who stood shoulder to shoulder with Robert Bruce in the great days of chivalry.

The Prizefighting Marquis

It is one of the ironic weaknesses of mankind to bestow immortality upon the picturesque rather than the important, and so most people only remember the family through the fact that a former Marquis of Queensberry drew up the boxing rules that bear his name; but its greatness rests upon a surer foundation than that.

One of its men was Justice General of Scotland; his son was Lord High Commissioner under William III; others of the line—all mighty warriors—rose to new honors and heights in the days of James I of England; royalty frequently was entertained at the castle of Drumlanrig, and when in 1707 the question arose of bringing about a union of the English and Scottish parliaments it was an ancestor of—the latest marquis who helped bring it about.

As for the other side of the picture, who is it that doesn't remember "Old Q." and the escapades which ruined the family? Or the misfortunes which at last carried the name of Queensberry into the bankruptcy court?

Defeated Harry Hotspur

Now that Irene Richards, former chorus girl, is Marchioness of Queensberry, it may be interesting to recall again that Douglas, ancestor of her husband, who fell at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388, but checked Harry Hotspur in fulfillment of the boast that for once a Hotspur should enjoy himself on Scottish soil.

Dead Douglas won the field that day, and what schoolboy but remembers it?

Victorious in Death

The tale has been perpetuated in the "Ballad of Chevy Chase." Out-numbering the Scotch three to one, Hotspur, with his battle cry "A Percy," fell on Douglas at dusk. Froissart in his Chronicles relates how Douglas rallied his forces, and then, though mortally wounded, won the day:

Douglas, the Chronicles relate, "being of great haste and high of emprise, saying his men recule back, to recover the place, and to shewe knightly valour; took his axe in both his hands, and entered so into the presse that he made himself waye in such wyse that none durst approche near hym and he was so well armed that he bore well such strokes as he received. Thus he went ever forward like a hardie Hector wylling alone to conquer the felde and to discomfite his enemies, but at last he was encountered with three spears all at once.

"The one stricke him in the shoulder, the other on the brest and the stroke glinted down his belly, and the thyrde stricke hym on the thye, and sore hurte with all three strokes so that he was borne perforce to erthe, and after that he could not be again released."

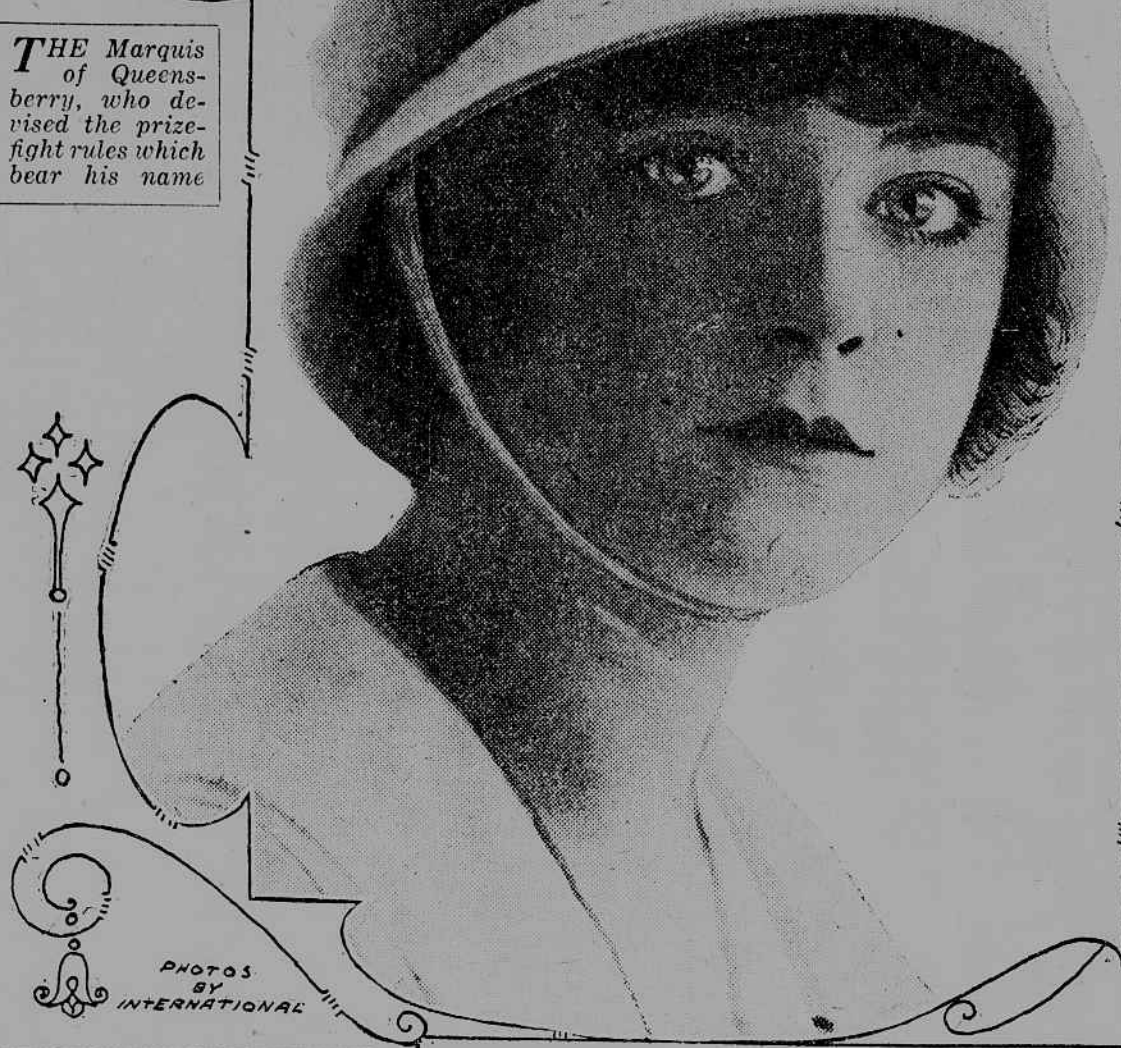
History does not agree fully with Froissart in his details of the fight, but according to the chronicles Douglas, though dying, was by no means vanquished. Sir John St. Clair, a cousin, riding up to the fallen hero, asked how things were with him.

Asked To Be Avenged

"Rycht well," was the undaunted reply. "But thanked be God there hath been but a few of my ancestors who have died in their beddes. Bot, cosyn, I require you to thinke to revenge me, for I reckon myself bot dead, for my herte feinteth often tymes. My Cosyn Walter and you, I praye you rayse up again my banner which lyeth on the



THE Marquis of Queensberry, who devised the prizefight rules which bear his name



TWO pictures of the new Viscountess of Queensberry, formerly a Gaiety girl

ground, and Squire Daway slain; but, sirs, show neither to friend nor foe what case ye see me in, for if myne enemies knew it they wolde joyce, and our frenedes be discomfited."

"A Douglas," the Cry

The banner was raised, as requested by the dying leader, and with cries of "A Douglas" carried back into the thick of the fight. Hotspur was overcome and Douglas dead was the victor of the day.

This Douglas was the first Earl of Queensberry. The second also was a man of sterling qualities, and his successor was promoted to marquis and then duke, a title which remained in the family until the death of "Old Q." when, there being no direct descendants, the Dukedom of Queensberry went to the Duke of Buccleuch, and the Marquessate of Queensberry to Sir Charles Douglas, who belonged to a younger branch of the family.

A Famous Marchioness

As the newest Marchioness of Queensberry has inherited at least some of the social prerogatives enjoyed by the famous women who married into the family, mention may be made of one of the best known of these, the wife of the third duke.

A Wit and a Beauty, she had her share of the eccentricities which, in later days at least, distinguished so many members of the family. She was a foe of any fashion in wom-

en's dress departing from that of her youth, and she persisted up to her death at seventy-two in wearing

clothes of the style prevailing when she was young. She refused, as she once wrote to Dean Swift, to curl

more general basis. It has established a sort of training station in Saxony, where it has procured a large landed estate, and will there teach ex-officers farming and prepare them also for other callings.

It also conducts a sort of building and loan association and purposes to buy land in various parts of the country, which it will parcel out to settle upon it the men whom it trains. It will require them to work one or two years on the Saxon estate before trying to set them up in life.

What Advertisements Show

The advertisements in the "Deutsches Adelsblatt" supply some interesting light on how the nobility are facing the butter and bread problem. Thus a retired captain wants to buy a writing machine and a retired major wants to take tal-

ent boys and girls, to be taught along with his own children upon his estate, proposing to make them "energetic personalities of pronounced national feelings." Another: "A front officer desires a position to learn farming; is willing to do his full part of the work in return for a little pocket money."

And here is one who is still struggling with his pride: "A married cavalry colonel desires confidential position with large land owner, giving opportunities for riding; willing to superintend agricultural operations; remuneration not in money, but otherwise arranged."

And here is another who threw away his pride at the start: "A young, elegant nobleman who had to sacrifice his career as officer owing to present conditions would like position on large estate to keep

company with lonely lady or gentleman."

As was naturally to be expected, the nobility find it hard to get their bearings in present political conditions. While a few of their number—men who, like Count Bernstorff, have been much out in the world—frankly recognize the fact that the old preferential position of the nobility has been swept away forever, are adjusting themselves to the changed conditions and are even members of the Democratic party, the great bulk of the nobility are trying stoutly to stem the democratic current. This old Prussian nobility is made of tough material, as the world has learned to its cost, and it is not going to abandon without a firm resistance the struggle for its position and for what it conceives as Germany's greatness.

Famous Scottish Family Has Played a Part in British History for Centuries

her hair "like a sheep's head or wear

When she gave a masquerade it was her practice to dismiss at midnight all who were not in her special favor, and to invite the rest to supper. But, apparently, these had no great reason for rejoicing, for a half of apple puff and conservative portions of wine and water were all she served.

But because of her ready tongue and keen intellect she retained the friendship of many men of letters, Congreve, James Thomson, Pope and Prior being numbered among her friends. She knew Pitt and Horace Walpole, and both frequently expressed their admiration of her talents.

It is interesting to note that the marriage of the young viscount and the Gaiety girl was contracted over the earnest protest of the young man's relatives, who hoped he might make a brilliant match and recoup the family fortunes, but the democratic youth refused to sacrifice himself and his fiancée to the extravagance of "Old Q." and others who had wrecked the estate.

"Old Q."

As to "Old Q.," volumes have been written. As a youth he joined with

to read at all, he conjured the wraiths of past desires by placing at his elbow the missives he had received from women, and when he died it was said his body was covered with them.

Fortunes Never Recovered

The family fortunes never recovered from the ravages inflicted by this fiercely evil little man. In fact, as years passed both the finances and the family reputation found ever lower levels, although occasionally with sporadic flashes of revived prosperity. Lord Francis Douglas, brother of the seventh marquis, was killed on July 14, 1865, in that fatal effort to scale the heights of the Matterhorn. In 1858 came that eighth Marquis of Queensberry, who drew up the rules for boxing, and after him in time the ninth marquis, whose recent death opened the doors of fashion to the onetime Gaiety girl.

Both the ninth marquis and the new holder of the title have been well known in the United States, the former rather curiously. On the occasion of his visit to America in 1911 the ninth marquis frankly announced that his mission was to recoup the family fortunes. He was credited at various times with saying that he was "through with the English" and that he "hated" them and their country. Part of this alleged distaste was attributed to the fact that he never became a member of the House of Lords.

He was forty-three years old when he started across the Atlantic, and he had been through the bankruptcy court after having run through an inheritance of about \$1,330,000. He had tried being a gold miner and sheep herder in Australia, had known what it was to swing a pick and had undertaken various financial ventures in London, but was unsatisfied by the results of these endeavors.

"If I can find a chance in business or a suitable position," he said when starting out for the New World, "I will make my home in the United States and become an American citizen."

His eldest son, the present incumbent, was then fifteen years old, and another son, Lord Douglas of Harwick and Tibbers, thirteen.

The marquis tried various occupations in this country, worked for a time as a newspaperman in Chicago, but found nothing to his liking and returned at last to England, from where he went to South Africa.

Served in the War

Now, as to the new marquis and the new marchioness. Unlike his father, this young nobleman served in the World War and made a name for bravery. He went to the front early in 1915 as an officer of the famous Highland regiment the Black Watch, and remained there until badly wounded and invalided.

Having been brought to this country as a youth by his father, he had received part of his education here, near Boston, but relatives had objected to his remaining here and he completed his studies at Harrow. His expenses there and at the Royal Military College of Sandhurst were paid by these relatives, who contended that his education should be in keeping with that of a future heir to the British peerage.

At Harrow and the military college the young fellow was all his relatives asked, but in choosing a wife he was a great disappointment.

They had hoped, above all, that he would select a mate from a wealthy family, as a young man of his good looks and social position could easily do, but this was not in keeping with his temperament or the democratic spirit of the age.

He had lost his heart across the footlights of the Gaiety Theater, and it remained in the keeping of the sprightly young woman who sang and danced there.

So as soon as possible after returning from the war a hero, and recovering from his wound, the marriage took place.

THE late Marquis of Queensberry, who died recently in South Africa

the then Prince of Wales and others in the shocking revels at the White House, at Soho Square and Sutton Street, and age failed to reform him. He drank harder than most, bet for higher stakes, and led in daring adventures with women.

Society, though more tolerant than now, shook its head a little fearfully over these escapades, some of which became rather grim. It was the fashion to say that some who passed the huge gates of the house in Sutton Street never were seen again. A huge double-winged structure, it contained extravagant decorations, with large mirrors set in the panels and sumptuous furniture and hangings. The jests sometimes took a sardonic turn, as when a skeleton was lowered from the ceiling to be a guest at the feast. Revels of a sensational character were held in the Painted Chamber, the Grotto and other apartments.

With most men age has a subduing effect, tempering the heyday in the blood with judgment; but not so with "Old Q." Decay robbed him of his physical faculties, he could see but a little from one eye and hear only with difficulty with one ear, but he was reluctant to yield first place in that licentious society where he had so long been supreme.

He retained his gift of repartee, and the newer wits gathered at his bedside to listen to his stories. He preserved his fondness for loose French comedies and spent vast sums having the first artists perform them for him. Unable at last



clothes of the style prevailing when she was young. She refused, as she once wrote to Dean Swift, to curl

German Nobility Faces Hard Times; Revolution Has Hit Court Circles Hard

By William C. Dreher

From The Tribune's European Bureau
BERLIN, July 20.
NO CLASS of people in Germany was harder hit by the outcome of the war than the nobility. For to the nobility the court meant far more than the commonality.

The landed aristocracy—the great families of dukes, princes, counts and barons—looked to the court to maintain those semi-feudal privileges which magnified their position in the world. Upon the Kaiser depended their monopoly of the diplomatic service, their preferred position in the army and in the bureaucracy. So it was not a mere matter of patriotism, and not necessarily one of political convictions, that made all nobles stout monarchists; for the monarchy had come something to give them that they greatly desired—the monarchy was the basis of their preferred position in the state.

Silent at First

Hence it is quite natural that no class of the German people has wasted so much printers' ink deploring the abolition of the monarchy and in denouncing the revolution. The first effect of the revolution, indeed, was to smother their voices; they were so frightened that they retired to their estates and maintained for a time a self-controlled silence that was admirable; but after they saw that the revolution was not thirsting for their blood they again found their voices. They began to protest and deplore. They began to hold public meetings and conventions at which they took obnoxious liberties with the republic, called down imprecations upon the revolution and avowed unflinching fidelity to the "monarchic principle." That was their good German abstract way of putting it; none of these ebullient gatherings has ventured to call for the return of Wilhelm II, yet their hearts beat true to the monarchic principle.

The new position of the aristocracy is really something pathetic. For generations it has been a fixed tradition of noble families to start their sons off in life along the paths that led to social distinction and easy positions in the world. Some were told off for the army and sent as boys to the cadet schools, from which they passed at once into lieutenantcies in the army. Several Guard regiments were preserved as monopolies for them; there they could have all the exclusiveness of

a social club, their officers' mess would not be disturbed by plebeian interlopers. Others, usually of the younger or lower nobility, were started on the path that led to the higher positions in the government service. These had to go to the universities, had to study law and pass hard examinations; and some years had to be spent in uninspiring drudgery at the law courts. Out of these two currents the diplomatists were selected, largely from the standpoint of family rank and eligibility. Wealth, too, was always essential in the higher diplomatic positions.

The Old Order Dead

But this easy arrangement of careers under parental auspices has ceased. The highest positions in the army, indeed, are still held almost wholly by noblemen; but the army, under the new order of German affairs, will be so small that the military career will necessarily cut but a slight figure henceforth in the aristocracy's outlook upon life. It is even probable that officers without a noble title will be preferred when the present leaders are retired. Neither can the nobility expect preferment in the public service, though some of them will remain in it.

So far as the military career goes, the very basis of it is cut away by the peace treaty—the Cadet Corps, namely. There are three of these, one each in Prussia, Saxony and Bavaria, being military organizations of the boys in the eleven cadet schools. These schools have lost their military character and continue to exist only as ordinary fitting schools, but the financial authorities of Prussia and the nation express doubts as to whether the money can be found for continuing them even in that capacity. Thus the first rung in the ladder of the young nobleman's favorite career is cut away.

Another heavy blow is the provision of the constitution that practically abolishes noble titles. It leaves existing titles, indeed, as a part of the family name, but these shall carry with them no advantages of birth or class; and no new titles shall be conferred.

May Assume Titles

This provision means more than appears on the surface. An appeal was recently circulated, signed by many noblemen, pointing out that it sweeps away the legal basis of nobility since anybody can assume a title with impunity; illegitimate chil-

dren can adopt the title of father or mother without coming into collision with the law.

This appeal throws much interesting light upon the present plight of the nobility. It points out that the Herald's Office has been abolished—an institution which was a sort of board for protecting the family rights of the nobility. It kept their pedigrees straight and it also invented coats of arms for newly ennobled families. Now these noblemen see various dangers arising for them under the new régime. They express the fear that the poverty of the unlanded nobility will tempt them to adopt persons and thus confer their titles upon them for a consideration.

"There has already been some advertising in the newspapers of noble titles," they allege, "in exchange for money, and in future this will become a destroying reality."

They predict that secondary lines of nobility will be established by children who take the title of their noble mother.

The appeal therefore calls for practical measures for keeping the noble sheep separated from semi-noble goats. A protective association must be formed to undertake the work of separation. The idea is that it shall keep a sort of pedigree registry of the really noble families, those having documentary or other indisputable proofs of nobility. Signers of the appeal propose that the new association shall fight out under the civil code the exclusive rights of the nobility to their titles; that it shall investigate family lineages and supply genealogical information, that it shall draw up family trees and certify to them, and work out and supply family coats of arms with appropriate emblazonment. Moreover, they warn their noble confrères that the present moment must be utilized, for the dissolution of the Herald's Office has set free the special talent that can handle these heraldic problems. Only now can the specialists be found; hence, come down with your subscription.

May Swamp Old Nobility

To show that the evils apprehended by these noblemen are no figment of the brain, it need only be said that the Prussian government, on November 3, 1919, issued an ordinance making it permissible for the illegitimate children of noble fathers or mothers to assume their titles, and also legalizing the acquisition of noble titles through